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Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Recognized by ASTHO for Model Practice

by ASTHO and the de Beaumont Foundation



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) partnered with the de Beaumont Foundation to launch the first-ever national Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS) Model Policies and Practices Challenge. As a part of the PH WINS Research to Action initiative, the challenge highlighted workforce innovations that are changing the public health field and demonstrating a strategic investment in the future of the national public health workforce. Three programs were recognized as models within their fields - best state or territorial, best local and best overall policy. Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department was awarded the Best Local Model Policy or Practice for their performance appraisal system approach.

To improve employee-supervisor relations and advance the performance of the overall workforce, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department (LDCHD) recently developed a performance appraisal system (PAS) wherein the supervisors work with their employees to identify professional goals and accountability measures to track performances. This system has allowed supervisors to gather employee input as well as provide honest feedback to employees.

Under PAS, supervisors utilize a coaching model centered on adaptive, rather than technical goal-setting in which supervisors and employees together create personal development plans focused on staff development and growth. Benefits of this model include providing the LDCHD workforce with the opportunity to attain new skills like budgeting, program management, and systems-thinking; higher rates of workplace satisfaction; proactive and responsive guidance by supervisors for their employees; and active, healthier involvement in the workplace.

In recognition for their work, LDCHD received a \$10,000 prize. Congratulations, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department!

National Public Health Thank You Day Webinar with Corey Ciocchetti - November 20

by the Local Public Health Program, KDHE



National Public Health Thank You Day is Monday, November 20. In recognition of the public health champions throughout Kansas, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will host "Make Your Free Throws: Self-Care and Stress Management for Busy Public Health Professionals", a webinar with Corey Ciocchetti as a guest speaker on November 20, 12 - 1 p.m. Corey was a keynote speaker at the 2017 Governor's Public Health Conference. He will focus on self-care and strategies for stress management. Register for the webinar on KS-TRAIN, [Course ID#1073627](#).

In continuing recognition for the dedication and work of public health professionals throughout Kansas, KDHE's Local Public Health Program will host one webinar a month leading up to National Public Health Week in April 2018. The 2018 Governor's Public Health Conference will be held in Wichita during National Public Health Week on April 3-5, 2018.

Watch for additional information in the next several months about the other upcoming webinars. Efforts are underway to make CEUs available to attendees for future webinars.

KDHE to Launch New Grant Management System

*by Karen Kelley, Local Public Health Program,
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will be launching a new grant management system that will replace Catalyst - Kansas Grant Management System (KGMS). KDHE sought input from local health department representatives to assist the design team with the build of KGMS. The new system has been built on lessons learned from Catalyst. The driving force for this change was the ability to allow more flexibility to make enhancements, to make the system more user friendly and intuitive, and to save significant taxpayer dollars. KDHE has hired temporary staff to copy all data, progress reports and financial status reports (FSRs) from Catalyst to KGMS; they are making good progress with this tedious task.

There will be multiple training webinars beginning sometime in November, so please watch for emails with dates. Registration will take place via KS-TRAIN. Please plan to use KGMS for the FY2019 grant applications. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Karen.Kelley@ks.gov or 785-296-0425.

Kansas Public Health Champions Recognized at KPHA

Each year during the Kansas Public Health Association Annual Conference, the Kansas Public Health Association recognizes services and commitment to public health through a variety of awards. This year's recipients include:

- Samuel J. Crumbine Award - Kim Moore, JD
- Special Service Award - Sonja Armbruster, MA
- Special Service Award - Ghazala Perveen, MBBS, PhD, MPH
- Jane Addams Award - Amy Marks, LMSW
- Dorothy Woodwin Award - Kim Ens, MS, BSN
- The President's Award - Becky Tuttle, MA
- Virginia Lockhart Award - Kim Neufeld, BA
- Public Health Policy Makers of the Year - Hutchinson City Council
- Corporate Service Award - Topeka Housing Authority



Nominations for each award were made by public health colleagues and peers, and the Kansas Public Health Association Awards Committee selected the individuals from the nominations. Each of the awarded individuals not only met the qualifications for the individual award they received, but also exemplified the theme of the Kansas Public

Health Association's Annual Conference - It's Time to Activate.



Kansas Public Health Workforce Assessment Launched on October 16

by the Bureau of Community of Health Systems, KDHE

Partners from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), KUMC-MPH Program, Kansas State University MPH program, Wichita State University, Midwestern Public Health Training Center, local health departments and other public health organizations have worked together to develop an assessment for the entire public health workforce in Kansas that was launched on October 16.

Developing and delivering targeted education and training requires that the proficiency of the workforce be measured. Assessment results will help supply the information needed to identify, prioritize, and develop training opportunities for the workforce around the state and in specific public health organizations; provide individuals with an opportunity to think about their strengths as a public health professional and areas in which they might want to seek additional training; and support each organization's efforts toward accreditation - specifically in Domain 8 of the Public Health Accreditation Board Standards and Measures.

The questions in the assessment are based on the [Council on Linkages Core Competencies](#) for Public Health Professionals and are divided into the following key dimensions of public health practice: Analytical/Assessment Skills; Policy Development/Program Planning Skills; Communication Skills; Cultural Competency Skills; Community Dimensions of Practice Skills; Public Health Sciences Skills; Financial Planning and Management Skills; Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills.

The assessment, which will close on November 6, 2017, will be administered to over 1,000 employees at the KDHE and over 1,500 staff at local health departments across the state.

There will be a chance to win one of over eighty gift cards for completing an assessment. Local health department administrators with the highest participation rates will also be eligible for incentives. For more information, please contact Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov or 785-296-3641. We look forward to your participation!



Carbon Monoxide Safety



by Safe Kids Kansas

The arrival of colder weather means more homes will be turning up the heat with fuel-burning appliances. These appliances include furnaces, ovens, space heaters, generators, indoor grills, and fireplaces that can unknowingly cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children younger than five years old have the highest estimated rate of CO-related visits to the emergency room each year among all age groups in the United States. Nationally, more than 25 children die from CO poisoning every year. In Kansas, over 500 people have been hospitalized and four people have died from CO poisoning over the past 10 years.

Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless. The symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of common winter ailments, like the flu. Without a CO detector in your home, your family can be poisoned without even realizing it's happening. Carbon Monoxide detectors cost approximately \$20 and can be purchased at most hardware and retail stores.

Tips to protect your family from CO poisoning:

- Prevent CO buildup in the first place - make sure heating appliances are in good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas.
- Don't run a car engine in the garage, even with the garage doors open. If you need to warm up your vehicle, move it outside first.
- Install a CO alarm outside every sleeping area, on every level of your home and at least 15 feet away from every fuel-burning appliance.
- When you check your smoke alarm batteries each month, check the batteries on your CO alarms at the same time – and replace the batteries twice a year.
- Never use an oven for heating.
- Portable generators must be used outside for proper ventilation. They cannot be used indoors or inside of a garage.
- Have all gas, oil or coal-burning appliances inspected by a technician every year to ensure they're working correctly and are properly ventilated.
- If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a CO alarm goes off, get everyone outside immediately and call 911 from a pre-arranged meeting place.

For more information, visit www.safekids.org or call the Poison Control Hotline at 800-222-1222.

CDC Acknowledges Kansas Arthritis Management Efforts

by the KDHE Communications Office



In honor of World Arthritis Day on October 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highlighted the efforts of several states across the nation who are working to help those in rural and underserved communities to manage their chronic health conditions better. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas Arthritis Program was highlighted for their work with community partners offering Chronic Disease Self-Management Program workshops in rural areas, especially those most impacted by arthritis.

Approximately 1 in 4 Kansas adults are living with an arthritic disease. Some of the most common of these are conditions like osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and gout. Co-occurring chronic conditions are common in individuals with arthritis. About 53 percent of adults with arthritis have hypertension and 20 percent have diabetes. This is not just a burden on the health of our population, but also a financial burden. The CDC estimated that during 2013, the annual medical cost of arthritis in the U.S. was \$140 billion and the cost of lost wages was \$164 billion, adding up to \$304 billion spent on this disease.

While these numbers are staggering, there are evidence-based programs available across the state to help individuals living with a chronic disease to more effectively manage their health. The Stanford-developed Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a 6-week workshop led by trained leaders. The workshops teach techniques for managing the physical and emotional issues those with a chronic condition may experience and help to improve participants' communication with their caregivers and health providers. Physical activity programs are also available. Walk with Ease is a 6-week walking class developed by the Arthritis Foundation which provides education on the disease and increases participants' ability to be active. It can either be led by a certified leader in a group setting or completed individually with a workbook. EnhanceFitness is an exercise class for all levels held on an ongoing basis by certified leaders at YMCA locations across the state. For more information and to find out how to locate any of these CDC-recommended programs near you, please visit www.ToolsForBetterHealthKS.org.

To read the CDC's feature on Kansas' work to support those living with chronic conditions in rural areas, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/rural-arthritis-help/index.html>.

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be November 28. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

Providers of Health Care to Needy Kansans Learn About Corrections Dental Lab

by Todd Fertig, Public Information Officer, KDOC



Through the work done in a dental lab at Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) in conjunction with Kansas Safety Net Clinics, medically underserved Kansans are having their dental prosthesis needs met at a price they can afford.

Kansans without insurance or the financial means to meet their need for dentures are finding that through medical “safety net clinics” around the state, they have access to high quality products that Kansas Correctional Industries (KCI) is producing in the TCF Dental Lab at the women’s facility in Topeka at a reduced cost. KCI, a subsidiary of the Kansas Department of Corrections, teaches offenders new skills, and allows them to earn wages in preparation for life outside of a correctional facility. Among the programs overseen by KCI are some service enterprises such as the dental lab.

The KCI dental lab at TCF produces all the dentures and partials needed by offenders in KDOC facilities - several hundred per year. Additionally, the lab turns out about 150 dentures for needy Kansans as part of the mission of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU).

Dr. Tomas Co, the supervisor/instructor of the KCI/TCF Dental Lab since 2012, spoke at a recent Oral Health and the Safety Net dental directors training in Salina sponsored by KAMU. Dr. Co told the dental directors, clinic managers, executive directors, and dental and clinical staff from Kansas and Nebraska gathered for the training about the impact the lab is having on the medically underserved population in Kansas. “If you are compassionate and you care, you can make a difference,” Dr. Co said. “In the work you are doing to help those in need in your clinics, you can know you are also making a difference in the lives of the women in the dental lab at TCF. You are contributing to these women having a sense of worth.”

People who visit one of the many Safety Net Clinics around Kansas and are identified as needing a dental prosthesis will have x-rays taken and impressions made of their mouths. Then the clinics will send the impression to the KCI/TCF Dental Lab which then will make a wax version of the denture. They will then send it back to the clinic for the patient to try in and to see if any adjustments need to be made. The wax set up is then sent back to the dental lab, where the final product is made and shipped back to the clinic.

The impact of these dentures on the recipients is often expressed to the women in the lab via thank you cards and photos. Melody Martin, Director of Development and Training for KAMU, said she wanted safety net providers to hear about the service provided by the KCI/TCF dental lab. “For a lot of the people who are treated in the clinics, they haven’t had access to oral health services for years,” Martin said. “For many of them, having access to high quality, affordable dentures can be life changing.”



Women at TCF who qualify for the dental lab program begin with classroom work and hands-on training before they begin working on products for actual use. The program, which takes about five years to complete, equips the participants to become competent dental technicians - a trade in high demand currently in Kansas and across the U.S. “The lab is giving me the skills I need so that after my release, I can take apply for jobs at dental labs,” said one participant in the program. “We do a good job and are needed by the people we are helping,” she added. “It makes me feel so much better about myself that I’m providing something to the community that I’ve taken so much from before.”

Regional Public Health Meetings

*by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Regional Public Health Meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities.

The fourth quarter of 2017 regional public health meetings will offer a variety of useful information. Come with your thinking cap on and ready to discuss difficult nuisance situations that you have encountered. The agenda includes the following: the KDHE District Office Administrators will lead a discussion on nuisance complaint investigations and other environmental health topics; and Phil Griffin, KDHE Immunization Program Section Chief, will share updates, policies, and plans from the Immunization Program. Registration for the fourth quarter is available on KS-TRAIN, Course ID#1072956.

The dates and locations for the fourth quarter meetings are:

- South Central Region, Hutchinson, November 1
- Southwest Region, Garden City, November 8
- Northwest Region, Oakley, November 9
- North Central Region, Beloit, December 6
- Northeast Region, Topeka, December 12

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics or questions regarding the meetings, please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov.

Accreditation Corner

Webinar - Performance Management: Finding a Fit for Your Health Department - November 16



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is hosting a webinar focused on performance management on November 16, 12 - 2 p.m. The webinar will feature PHAB staff, as well as individuals leading public health performance management efforts in local and state health departments, including Terry Bryant, New Mexico Department of Health, Santa Fe; and Megan DiMeglio, Norwalk Health Department, Norwalk, Connecticut. Register for the webinar [online](#). Questions about the webinar can be directed to Shirley Orr at Shirleyaorr@gmail.com.

Local Health Departments Are Increasingly Using Quality Improvement to Improve Agency Performance



According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials' 2016 National Profile of Local Health Departments and newly released research briefs, local health departments across the United States have increased their implementation of agency-wide quality improvement (QI) over the past three years.

If your health department is beginning to use QI tools and methods, is working to institutionalize QI, or is interested in expanding and enhancing your use of QI, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) has a wide variety of practical resources, tools, and expertise to help you be successful. Resources include the [Quality Improvement Quick Guide](#), [Quality Improvement Tools to Advance Public Health Performance](#), the [Public Health Improvement Resource Center](#), and [more](#). Visit the Public Health Foundation [website](#) for additional information on their QI resources.

Preparedness Corner

NACCHO's Roadmap to Ready - A Training and Mentoring Program for New Preparedness Coordinators



Roadmap to Ready is a yearlong training and mentoring program that helps new emergency preparedness coordinators navigate the complex landscape of public health preparedness. The program provides participants with the knowledge, skills, connections, and resources they need to successfully lead and coordinate public health emergency preparedness planning and response activities in their local jurisdictions. Learn more [online](#).

Webinar - Highly Pathogenic Infectious Disease Exercise Planning for Health Care Coalitions - November 9



This fourth in a series of joint webinars will highlight the National Ebola Training and Education Center's free exercise templates for Health Care Coalitions (HCCs) to test their readiness to manage patients suspected or known to have a highly infectious disease and will feature speakers from HCCs that have already exercised their plans. The webinar will take place Thursday, November 9, 1 - 2 p.m. [Register now](#) - space is limited. Additional information about the webinar is [available online](#). Questions regarding the webinar should be addressed to askasprtracie@hhs.gov.

TRACIE Provides New Resources for Healthcare Coalitions



The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's (ASPR's) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) has collaborated with the ASPR National Healthcare Preparedness Program (NHPP) to develop tools and templates for healthcare coalitions (HCCs). These new resources will improve HCC preparedness efforts, decision making processes, and operational planning. While most ASPR TRACIE resources are applicable to HCCs and other stakeholders, a [new page](#) has been developed to highlight select tools and other HCC resources, including over fifty HCC plans and templates received by ASPR TRACIE and vetted through their Subject Matter Expert Cadre. New tools and templates will continue to be added as needed. An overview of the resources is available [online](#). View the [new page](#) with the tools and other HCC resources to access the plans, tools, and templates.

Don't Forget to Check Out the Ready Reader



The Ready Reader is developed by a taskforce representing emergency preparedness professionals, regulators, and advocacy associations from Kansas concerned with promoting compliance with the new CMS Emergency Preparedness conditions. The newsletters are available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/providers.htm> and new issues become available on Tuesdays. To receive the newsletter directly when it is released, send an email with your email address to Michael McNulty at mike.mculty@ks.gov.

Funding Opportunities



Community Change Grants - Deadline November 10

America Walks, partners of the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and other generous sponsors, are excited to announce another round of their popular micro grant funding. This program will award grantees up to \$1,500 in community stipends for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play.

Walkable communities lead to improved safety and health for community members of all age, abilities, genders, and backgrounds. They engage all community members in the work being done to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. These communities see benefits for all community members to individual health and wellness, community interaction, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability. Advocates must be diligent in making sure that every community member has access to these benefits, and it is our hope that these funds can help with that.

Most importantly, walking and walkability can help to bridge community divides and overcome existing disparities. To make and keep walking and walkability a priority in neighborhoods and communities so these benefits are equally available to all, a strong, connected group of local advocates and dedicated organizations are needed. This grant program aims to support and grow this network of advocates and organizations and to strengthen communities' sustainability.

Funded projects will increase walking and benefits of walkability in communities, work to grow the walking movement by engaging people and organizations new to the efforts, and take steps towards creating a culture of inclusive health.

Please contact Heidi Simon at hsimon@americawalks.org with questions. Applications are due through submission of an [online form](#) by November 10.

IKC Adolescent Immunization Innovation Grant - Deadline November 30



The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) seeks to provide recognition awards for local quality improvement activities that support evidence-based practices and measurable increases in HPV, meningococcal and Tdap vaccination rates among adolescents in Kansas.

These innovation grants (limited to clinical practice settings in Kansas) are open to the following four categories, and one award winner will be selected from each category:

- Local public health departments;
- Residency programs in family medicine or pediatrics;
- Safety net clinics (e.g., federally qualified health centers, community health centers); and
- Providers and clinics directly involved in the delivery of immunization services for adolescents in Kansas

IKC wants to recognize these activities because Kansas adolescents (age 13–17) rank 41st in the nation for HPV vaccination rates and 45th for meningococcal vaccination rates.

Four grants, \$5,000 each, will be awarded following the successful demonstration of an immunization rate increase in a clinical practice setting. Providers interested in the recognition awards must register their intent by November 30. The [full proposal](#), timelines, and [registration form](#) are attached and available here. For additional information regarding the Adolescent Immunization Innovation Grant, please refer to the Call for Proposal or contact the Immunize Kansas Coalition at immunize@khi.org. Registration forms should be e-mailed to immunize@khi.org no later than November 30.



Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program - Deadline December 4



The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have announced a funding opportunity through the Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP). The primary goals of the CFPCGP are to meet the needs of low-income individuals through food distribution, community outreach to assist in participation in Federally assisted nutrition programs, or improving access to food as a part of a comprehensive service; increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues; and meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs including needs related to equipment, planning for long-term solutions, or the creation of innovative marketing activities.

NIFA is currently seeking applications for the CFPCGP under the following areas: Community Food Projects (CFP) and Planning Projects (PP). CFPs should be designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with CFPCGP primary goals. The purpose of a Planning Project is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. PPs should focus on a defined community and describe in the detail the activities and outcomes of the planning project. Preference will be given to CFPs and PPs designed to:

- Develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system;
- Support the development of entrepreneurial projects;
- Develop innovative connections between the for-profit and nonprofit food sectors;
- Encourage long-term planning activities, and multi-system, interagency approaches with collaborations with multiple stakeholders that build the long-term capacity of communities to address the food and agricultural problems of the communities, such as food policy councils and food planning associations; or
- Develop new resources and strategies to food insecurity in the community and prevent food insecurity in the future by developing creative food resources; coordinating food services with park and recreation programs and other community based outlets to reduce barriers to access; or creating nutrition education programs for at-risk populations to enhance food purchasing and food-preparation skills and to heighten awareness of the connection between diet and health.

Community Food Projects can be funded up to \$400,000 over the course of 48 months. Planning Projects may be funded up to \$35,000 for the total project period, which is one year. Applicants for CFP and PP must be public food program service providers, tribal organizations, or private nonprofit entities, including gleaners. Applicants must have experience in the area of community food work; demonstrate competency to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability, collect data, and prepare reports and necessary documentation; demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, evaluators, practitioners, and other interested parties; and collaborate with one or more local partner organization.

Further information on this funding opportunity including the eligibility requirements is available [online](#). Applications are due by December 4.

Training and Conference Announcements

Midwest Dairy Council Webinar - November 6



The Midwest Dairy Council is pleased to invite you to register for their upcoming webinar, The Human Microbiome: Can Addition of Probiotics to the Diet Really Change People's Health? The webinar will feature Dr. Robert Martindale, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery and the Chief of the Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University on Monday, November 6, 12 p.m. Dr. Martindale will discuss the human microbiome and its influence in maintaining health as well as the potential benefits of using probiotics in a healthy state as well as a state of illness. This webinar is pending approval for 1 CPEU through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Register [online](#) for the webinar.

New Safe Sleep Course Posted to KansasTRAIN



The Kansas Infant Death & SIDS Network (KIDS) in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Child Care Program have created a new online course module for KansasTRAIN at <https://www.train.org/ks/>. Safe Slumber: Creating a Safe Sleep Environment, Course ID# 1073036, is a one hour course designed primarily for child care providers, but all professions that work with infants are encouraged to enroll in this course. At the conclusion of the education opportunity, learners will be able to define Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), address statistics of SIDS/SUID and identify how to create a safe sleep environment. The course includes several videos, pre-post assessment, evaluation and a certificate. New KansasTRAIN navigation information is available [here](#).

Webinar - Marijuana and Our Health: What We Do and Don't Know - November 14



Marijuana has been used for both medicinal and recreational purposes for a long time. Nevertheless, a full understanding of the effects of this plant on our health, and how to address the long-term residual consequences of its criminalization in our communities can remain elusive. As preparations and discussions unfold across California and other states around legalized adult use, increasing an understanding of marijuana can assist with achieving desirable and equitable outcomes.

Join CA4Health for a Web Forum series co-hosted by Dialogue4Health to learn more about Marijuana and Our Health; Marijuana and Communities; and Marijuana and Public Health. Session 1, Marijuana and Our Health will explore the scientific information available about the effects of marijuana use on our health, the challenges in getting a full picture, and how states that have legalized marijuana continue to research and monitor these effects. Register for the webinar [online](#).

CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds - Meeting the Challenges of Measuring and Preventing Maternal Mortality in the United States - November 14



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will offer a live webcast focusing on maternal mortality on November 14, 12 -1 p.m. Women in the United States are more likely to die from childbirth or pregnancy-related causes than other women in high-income countries. More evidence is needed to understand the actual causes of death better, but research suggests that half of these deaths may be preventable. Racial disparities persist. The risk of pregnancy-related deaths for black women is three to four times higher than those of white women.

Join this session of Grand Rounds to learn about efforts to analyze and prevent future deaths. Hear speakers discuss the effects maternal deaths have on the family and on the community. You will also learn about how CDC has collaborated and intervened through public-private partnership efforts to prevent deaths associated with childbirth and pregnancy.

Speakers will include Eleni Z. Tsigas, Chief Executive Officer, Preeclampsia Foundation; William M. Callaghan, MD, MPH, Chief, Maternal and Infant Health Branch, CDC; Lisa M. Hollier, MD, MPH, FACOG, President-elect, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and Mary-Ann Etiebet, MD, MBA, Executive Director, Merck for Mothers. The speakers will present on accounting for maternal deaths and the need for better data; policies and practices to protect pregnant women and other women; and the role of public-private partnerships in addressing maternal mortality. A live webcast will be available on CDC's [website](#). The link will be live five minutes before the presentation. Past CDC sessions can be viewed at their [archive](#). Sessions are archived 3-4 days after each presentation.

Webinar - Food Marketing to Youth : Does the Marketing of Infant and Toddler Products Affect Parental Perceptions of Healthy Food Behavior? - November 15



The majority of baby and toddler food products offered by companies in the United States provide nutritious options for young children. However, many of the products and marketing messages do not support, and in some cases, run counter to expert recommendations for encouraging lifelong healthy dietary preferences and eating habits. Attendees will learn the various ways food marketing is used to influence parental purchasing decisions and the impact these marketing tactics may have on shaping parental perceptions of healthy feeding practices. Webinar participants will leave with an enhanced understanding of the role of food marketing in infant and toddler feeding practices and the role health professionals and policy makers can play in challenging these marketing practices and supporting parents in their quest to promote healthy eating habits in their children.

The MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education will host a webinar on November 15, 11 - 12 p.m. Continuing education credits are available for dietitians. Register for the webinar [online](#).

Crafting Richer Public Health Messages Webinar Series - November 30



**The Network
for Public Health Law**

The next webinar in the Network for Public Health Law webinar series will be held on November 30, 12 - 1:30 p.m. The second webinar will focus on messaging and the five essential public health law services. In the second webinar, the presenters will explain their research over the past year exploring how this framework can be employed to more successfully advance public health initiatives, with specific focus on preemption, housing code enforcement, and early childhood care and education. Presenters will also discuss how the messaging used to advance public health laws, when crafted in a way that embraces the full range of intuitive moral values, may lead to broader community and political support for successfully developing, enacting and then enforcing new legal solutions. Register for the webinar [online](#).

The third webinar in the series will be held on December 14, 12 - 1:30 p.m. The third webinar will focus on practical examples of public health issues have been effectively communicated across party lines in the politically divided state of North Carolina. Register for the third webinar [online](#). The first webinar, focusing on Moral Foundations Theory, was held on October 26. The [slides](#) and the [recorded webinar](#) are available [online](#).

2017 Schedule Meetings and Conferences Impacting Local Public Health Agencies

[Click Here to Access the Calendar](#)

Save the Date for the Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas Semi-Annual Meeting - December 7



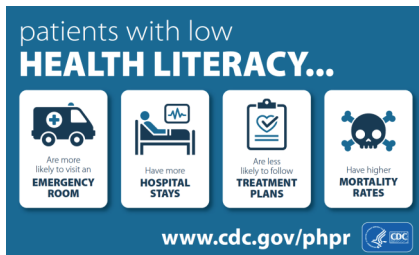
The Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas (CDAK) has announced they will hold their semi-annual meeting on December 7, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. Additional information about the event will be released on their [website](#) closer to the date. Resources and information about other events can be also found on the CDAK [website](#).

Public Health Communication Courses Available on KansasTRAIN



The following public health communication courses were recently posted to KansasTRAIN at <https://www.train.org/ks/>:

- [Design Matters! Integrating Design into Public Health Communications: Two Case Studies](#), Course ID# 1073432, discusses the crucial role of design in health communication and how good design can make or break a health communication campaign. In the recent Health Communications Matters Webinar Series, the presenters illustrated the role of good design in health communication and described how public health practitioners and researchers can work with designers and artists to enhance the appeal and effectiveness of their materials.
- [Raising Community Voices: The Power of Storytelling in Public Health](#), Course ID# 1073425, provides participants information on how to use storytelling to advance public health goals for the communities you serve.
- [What's Your Peer Crowd? Identifying Your Audience and Health Messages That Resonate](#), Course ID # 1073428, will help you use the FDA's Fresh Empire tobacco education campaign and instruct you on how this piece of information can assist you in designing and disseminating your messages.
- [Building a Public Health Literate Organization](#), Course ID# 1073433, provides information from Dr. Cynthia Baur on health literacy tools and guidelines developed at the federal level by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will be followed with a presentation by Susan Bockrath, who shares a best-practice example on how one local health department in Nebraska has taken on the challenge of implementing health literacy organizational capacity. They have been working with a variety of stakeholders in their community to achieve public health accreditation standards for health literacy.
- [Storytelling as Health Communication: Fighting Obesity and Diabetes](#), Course ID# 1073431, this recorded webinar highlights the power of storytelling as a public health tool in preventing our most pervasive chronic conditions, diabetes and obesity. The panel featured community works and researchers doing work in vulnerable communities from two cutting-edge projects.



Use Visuals to Communicate About Health!

Visual communication can benefit all audiences and be especially helpful to people with low literacy and numeracy skills. Infographics can make complex information easier to comprehend, more attractive, and reinforce health messages like the example here: <https://www.cdc.gov/phpr/infographics/healthliteracy.htm>

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Visual Communication Resources](#) page for more information on how to effectively communicate your message and graphic displays.

CDC's 2017 School Health Index



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the [2017 School Health Index \(SHI\)](#), a self-assessment and planning tool that schools can use to improve their health and safety policies and programs at the elementary, middle, and high school level. The 2017 SHI now aligns with the [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child \(WSCC\) model](#), a unified and collaborative approach designed to

improve learning and health in our nation's schools.

The 2017 SHI addresses seven health topics:

- Alcohol and other drug use prevention **NEW!**
- Chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma, food allergies) **NEW!**
- Nutrition
- Physical activity and physical education
- Tobacco use prevention
- Sexual health, including HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy prevention
- Unintentional injury and violence prevention (safety)

CDC's comprehensive 2017 SHI is available in an online interactive format and in a downloadable format at www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/shi/index.htm. Abridged versions of the 2017 SHI, focusing on nutrition and physical activity only, are available through the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) and [Action for Healthy Kids'](#) websites. CDC also offers online training for the updated SHI [here](#).

Rural Tobacco Control and Prevention Toolkit



The Rural Health Information Hub has developed a toolkit to provide evidence-based examples, promising models, best practices, and resources that your organization can use to implement programs for tobacco control and prevention. There are seven modules in the toolkit. Each module contains information and links to resources that your organization can use to design, implement, evaluate, sustain, and disseminate rural programs for tobacco control and prevention. To view the resources, visit the [webpage](#).

Training: Introduction to Billing and Business Processes for Local Kansas Health Departments



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment & the Center for Public Health Initiatives at Wichita State posted a two-part training for both new and experienced administrators, billers, and office managers. This training originally posted in PH Connections in 2016; gives a high level overview of the billing workflow utilized in departments. Focusing on organizational competencies, as part of the Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities Model, this training provides an introduction to performance and financial management as applied to the billing process. For more information, or to access this training on KsTrain.org, search for: Introduction to Local Health Department Billing and Business Practices (Course # 1062321) or contact Aaron Davis at aaron.davis@wichita.edu.

Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Resources Available



The Kansas Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Workgroup, led by the Kansas Health Institute, has developed and released five resources for cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) in Kansas. All five have been developed in partnership with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), the Public Health Systems Group and staff from the Center for Sharing Public Health Services. Local health department administrators can refer to and use these resources when questions about CJS arise in their communities. Additional information and the CJS resources can be found at the Center for Sharing Public Health Services' website: <http://phsharing.org/>.

The Opioid Epidemic: Trainings and Other Resources for Public Health Professionals



The opioid epidemic is one of the most pressing public health issues of our time. Opioid abuse – including misuse of prescription and street drugs – is a growing problem in communities across the U.S. It's part of the reason that drug overdose has become the leading cause of death of Americans under 50. There is an urgent need for a coordinated, multisectoral response, with public health professionals playing a central role.

The Region IV Public Health Training Center has compiled [a list](#) of resources, archived trainings, and a training series [online](#) in response to the opioid epidemic. Below is a select listing of some of the identified archived training materials and additional resources:

- [The Opioid Epidemic: A National Emergency](#) - Recording of Emory University Department of Medicine Grand Rounds on September 5, 2017.
- [Pathways to Safer Opioid Use](#) - Interactive simulation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- [Primary Prevention and Public Health Strategies to Prevent Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome](#) - CDC Public Health Grand Rounds session recorded on August 15, 2016.
- [Successful Models and Resources to Support Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment](#) - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Workforce Grand Rounds Webinar recorded on June 13, 2017.

News and Resources

How Many American Women Die From Causes Related to Pregnancy or Childbirth? No One Knows



Indeed, [for the last decade](#), the U.S. hasn't had an official annual count of pregnancy-related fatalities, or an official maternal mortality rate - a reflection of health officials' lack of confidence in the available numbers. Data collection on maternal deaths is so flawed and under-funded that the federal government no longer even publishes an official death rate. How many American women die each year from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth? How many of these deaths are preventable?

How does the nation's current rate of maternal mortality compare to the rate 10 or 20 or 30 years ago? The questions are straightforward, with public health implications that would seem [impossible to shrug off](#).

CDC App Tells Parents When to Be Concerned About Child's Development



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week [released a free tool](#) for parents who want to monitor their children's developmental accomplishments - and learn more about where they may be falling behind. The app, called Milestone Tracker, is available for iPhone and Android. It allows parents to create a personalized checklist for the emotional and physical developmental milestones of children aged 2 months to 5 years.

How Northern Kentucky is Fighting the Opioid Epidemic



The opioid epidemic is a national issue that affects states, cities, towns, families and friends. It's a crisis that no one department or tool can solve. In Northern Kentucky, health department officials are collaborating with organizations and using data to tell the story of opioid addiction and find a solution. [Check out an interview](#) with those officials sharing their successes, challenges and advice for using analytics to solve critical issues.

Job Postings

Geary County Health Department

- [Nurse Practitioner - IST](#)
- [WIC Assistant](#)
- [Registered Dietitian](#)
- [Assistant Nursing Director](#)
- [Registered Nurse](#)
- [WIC Coordinator](#)
- [Health Nurse 1 - RN](#)

Harvey County Health Department

- [Registered Nurse \(Community Health Nurse\)](#)

Pawnee County Health Department

- [Public Health Administrator](#)

Pottawatomie County Health Department

- [Medical Secretary](#)
- [Public Health RN \(LPN considered\)](#)

Riley County Health Department

- [Child Care Surveyor I](#)
- [Public Health Nurse - Mother & Infant Program](#)

Saline County Health Department

- [Home Health Registered Nurse](#)

Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Nurse Immunization Service Coordinator](#)
- [Registered Dietician](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[2017 KDHE News Releases](#)
[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)
[Kansas Environmental News](#)
[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)
[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)
[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)
[Ready Reader](#)
[What's Happening Wednesday \(Immunization\)](#)

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email phc@kdheks.gov.
 Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at
http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm.

Send your public health news to
 Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov.